

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 AID-05 PC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 VOE-00 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 L-03 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 DHA-02 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 SS-15

NSC-05 PER-03 A-01 /140 W
----- 004589

P R 050335Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6170

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0569

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PPT, CVIS, LA

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 049 BANGKOK 4177

1. LAO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS SENT CIRCULAR NOTE ABOUT TRAVEL RESTRICTION DATED 3 MARCH 1976 TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND TO THE UN MISSION IN LAOS. NOTE STATES THAT "HENCEFORTH, FOREIGNERS OF ALL NATIONALITIES WHO DO NOT HAVE VISAS ISSUED BY LAO EMBASSIES AND CONSULATE WILL NO LONGER BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THAI NATIONALS FROM THE FRONTIER ZONES, WHO WERE SUBJECT TO SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR INTERZONAL TRAVEL. AIR LINE COMPANIES AND THE OWNERS OF BOATS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT PEOPLE IN THIS CATEGORY (THAT IS, WITHOUT PROPER VISAS) WILL BE HELD RESP YYBLDIBYOWYZGLAO#AITCBPITS UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR TAKING THEM BACK."

2. FRENCH CONSUL IN VIENTIANE MICHEL BONDY INFORMED US MARCH 5 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN TOLD BY LAO GOVERNMENT THAT IT SHOULD STOP ISSUING VISAS FOR LAOS (SEE VIENTIANE 0479) AND THAT FRENCH EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES HAVE NOW BEEN SO INSTRUCTED. BONDY ALSO STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT VISAS ISSUED BY FRENCH EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES BEFORE THE NEW REGULATION WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE HONORED BY LAO AUTHORITIES FOR ENTRY INTO LAOS. HEAD OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISION OF MFA KHAMSY SALY CONFIRMED THAT A FOREIGNER IN POSSESSION OF A VISA ISSUED FORMERLY BY FRENCH CONSULATES OR EMBASSIES SHOULD OBTAIN A NEW VISA FROM A LAO EMBASSY OR CONSULATE FOR TRAVEL TO LAOS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST YOU NOTIFY OUR EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES THAT VISA FROM LAO EMBASSY OR CONSULATE ABROAD IS NECESSARY FOR TRAVEL TO LAOS. LAO MISSIONS ABROAD ARE NOT REPEAT NOT CURRENTLY ISSUING VISAS TO ANY FOREIGN TOURISTS. HOWEVER, VISAS ARE STILL BEING ISSUED FOR BUSINESS OR OFFICIAL TRAVEL.

4. FOR BANGKOK AND HONG KONG: REQUEST YOU INFORM AMERICANS WHO INQUIRE ABOUT TRAVEL TO LAOS OF NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY. AMERICANS WHO HAVE VISA ISSUED BY FRENCH EMBASSY OR CONSULATE SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT THEY SHOULD OBTAIN A NEW VISA FROM A LAO MISSION ABROAD.
CORCORAN

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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